


FOURTEENTH CONGRESS OF THE REPUBLIC)
OF THE PHILIPPINES)
First Regular Session)

7 JUL 30 2007

SENATE

RECEIVED BY: 

P. S. Resolution No. 47

Introduced by Senator FRANCIS G. ESCUDERO

RESOLUTION

DIRECTING THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON ENERGY IN THE EXERCISE OF ITS OVERSIGHT FUNCTIONS TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY INTO THE ALLEGED IMMINENT POWER CRISIS WITH THE END IN VIEW OF EXAMINING THE IMPLEMENTATION OF PERTINENT LAWS AND ENACTING LEGISLATIVE MEASURES IF NECESSARY TO ADDRESS THE SAME

WHEREAS, reports reveal that Luzon is currently experiencing a prolonged dry season that has lowered water levels in several dams thereby causing brownouts in Metro Manila and in a number of nearby provinces;

WHEREAS, on the basis of the above reports, appropriate agencies of government claim that an imminent power crisis may set in, especially so that the 245 megawatt Angat hydroelectric power plant in Bulacan stopped operation last Monday, 23 July 2007, and that the 345 megawatt San Roque hydroelectric power plant in Pangasinan is likewise nearing non-operational status, all due to inadequate water supply;

WHEREAS, an effective and competent government should have been able to anticipate this water and energy crisis well considering that water shortage or extended dry season, popularly known as the El Niño phenomenon, is a usual occurrence in the country;

WHEREAS, the concerned agencies of government in the power sector for instance should have known that with the extended dry season the supply of coal for generating plants other than hydro-electric power plants should be sufficient enough to compensate the non-operation of the latter plants and ensure uninterrupted power supply;

WHEREAS, more importantly, the government should have been by now equipped with a comprehensive energy development plan, or a road map at the very least, in view of its policy to promote bio fuels such as the jathropa principally meant to resolve any power shortage due to, among others, inadequate water supply;

WHEREAS, it would appear that the power and water crisis being referred to is not really a crisis since options could have been made or are

available to address it if only the appropriate agencies of government in the power sector are competent and efficient enough;

WHEREAS, real or imaginary there is an urgent need to look into the subject matter at hand so that a determination could be had on its true and real cause, manmade or natural, and that it be addressed accordingly;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED AS IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED THAT the Committee on Energy conduct an inquiry in the exercise of its oversight functions into the alleged imminent power crisis with the end in view of examining the implementation of pertinent laws and enacting legislative measures if necessary to address the same.

BE IT RESOLVED FURTHER THAT the Committee on Energy be immediately constituted to act on this Resolution which speaks of a matter that is needed to be addressed with dispatch in the light of its economic and social impact to the country.

Adopted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Francis G. Escudero', written over a horizontal line.

FRANCIS G. ESCUDERO